CLAIM AMENDMENT SHEET

1. (currently amended) A tensioner for selectively tensioning individual parallel strips of sheet material traveling along a pass line from a slitter to a recoiler, said tensioner interposed across said pass line and about said strips between said slitter and recoiler, said tensioner comprising:

a first engagement member transversely spanning one side of said strips;

a second engagement member transversely spanning the opposite side of said strips, said second engagement member formed into a plurality of individual segments secured against movement along said pass line with at least one of said segments aligned with each of said strips;

an actuator associated with each said segment of said second engagement member, each actuator for individually urging its said segment toward said first engagement member into a closed position to selectively compress each strip between said first and second engagement members.

2. (previously presented) The tensioner of claim 1 and a support for said segments to allow each segment to shift independently of the other said segments toward said first engagement member.

3. (previously presented) The tensioner of claim 2 wherein each segment is shiftable between an open position vertically spaced below said strips and said closed position contacting said strips.

4. (currently amended) A tenioner for selectively tensioning individual parallel strips of sheet material traveling along a pass line from a slitter to a recoiler, said

tensioner interposed across said pass line and about said strips between said slitter and recoiler, said tensioner comprising:

a first engagement member transversely spanning one side of said strips;

a second engagement member transversely spanning the opposite side of said strips, said second engagement member formed into a plurality of individual segments with at least one of said segments aligned with each of said strips;

an actuator associated with each said segment of said second engagement member, each actuator for individually urging its said segment toward said first engagement member into a closed position to selectively compress each strip between said first and second engagement members, and

a support for said segments to allow each segment to shift independently of the other said segments toward said first engagement member, each segment being shiftable between an open position vertically spaced below said strips and said closed position contacting said strips, ~~The tensioner of claim 3 wherein~~ said segments ~~have~~ having transversely aligned holes through said segments, a fixed rod extending through said holes with a clearance, whereby each segment is supported by a said actuator when said segment is in its said closed position and each segment is carried by said rod when in its said open position.

5. (previously presented) The tensioner of claim 4 wherein said first engagement member is shiftable between a vertically spaced position above said strips and an engagement position in contact with said material.

6. (currently amended) A tensioner for selectively tensioning individual parallel strips of sheet material traveling along a pass line from a slitter to a recoiler, said tensioner comprising:

a first engagement member for transversely spanning said pass line;

a second engagement member opposed to said first engagement member for transversely spanning said pass line, said second engagement member including segments transversely alignable with said strips and secured against movement along said pass line as said strips travel along the pass line;

a plurality of actuators to selectively urge said segments toward said first engagement member for selectively compressing said strips between said first and second engagement members.

7. (previously presented) The tensioner of claim 6 wherein said first engagement member includes a plurality of second segments for rotatively engaging said strips, each said second segment aligned with a said strip.

8. (previously presented) The tensioner of claim 7 wherein said first segments are rotatively fixed for frictional engagement with said strips.

9. (currently amended) A method of recoiling parallel strips of slit coils having a plurality of thicknesses comprising the steps:

a) passing said strips along a pass line between opposing engagement members carried by a tensioner, one of said engagement surfaces being segmented with at least one of said segments secured against movement along said pass line and aligned with each of said strips; and,

b) selectively compressing each said strip between the other of said engagement members and said aligned segment to apply a selected tension to each strip as it is wound upon the recoiler.